

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing from a recording medium a plurality of image data which has been  
5 recorded in a plurality of independent areas on the recording medium and specified so as to be reproduced in predetermined order;  
a memory for storing the image data reproduced by said reproducing means;  
10 memory control means for controlling a writing and a read-out of said image data into/from said memory; and  
mode setting means for switching on the basis of positions of said plurality of areas on said recording  
15 medium, a first mode in which the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced by said reproducing means in order different from said predetermined order and written in said memory and the image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is  
20 read out from said memory in said predetermined order by said memory control means and a second mode in which the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced in said predetermined order by said reproducing means and written in said memory and the image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is  
25 read out from said memory in said predetermined order by said memory control means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said reproducing means reproduces TOC data indicative  
of the positions of said plurality of areas on said  
recording medium from said recording medium, and said  
5 mode setting means switches said first and second modes  
on the basis of said TOC data reproduced by said  
reproducing means.

10 3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said predetermined order is specified in accordance  
with said TOC data.

15 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said reproducing means has a pickup mechanism for  
seeking on said recording medium and reproducing said  
image data, and said mode setting means further  
switches said first and second modes on the basis of  
the positions of said plurality of areas and a seeking  
time between said plurality of areas by said pickup  
20 mechanism.

25 5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said mode setting means further switches said first and  
second modes on the basis of an amount of image data  
which can be stored in said memory.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

5        said mode setting means discriminates whether the image  
data can be continuously read out from said memory in  
said predetermined order in the case where said image  
data is reproduced in said first mode or not on the  
basis of the positions of said plurality of areas and  
switches said first and second modes on the basis of a  
result of said discrimination.

10      7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said mode setting means further switches said first and  
second modes on the basis of program data indicative of  
a reproducing procedure of said image data from said  
plurality of areas and the positions of said plurality  
of areas.

15      8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said predetermined order is specified in accordance  
with said program data.

20      9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said reproducing means reproduces said program data  
from said recording medium.

25      10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said memory is also used as a shockproof memory.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said image data has been encoded by an MPEG system and  
said memory stores said encoded image data.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
5       said recording medium includes a disc medium.

13. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said recording medium includes an optical disc medium  
of a zone CAV system.

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14. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing a plurality of  
image data which has been recorded in a plurality of  
independent areas on a disk-shaped recording medium and  
15      specified so as to be reproduced in predetermined  
order, from said disk-shaped recording medium by using  
a pickup mechanism;

a memory for storing the image data reproduced by  
said reproducing means;

20       memory control means for reading out the image  
data stored in said memory in said predetermined order;  
and

25       control means for controlling whether the image  
data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced  
in order different from said predetermined order and  
written in said memory or not, on the basis of position  
information indicative of positions of said plurality

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of areas on said disk-shaped recording medium, a capacity of said memory, and a seeking time between said plurality of areas by said pickup mechanism.